



## CHANGE THE AIR FOUNDATION

**"It's time to put mold and water damage on the same playing field as lead, asbestos, and radon."  
Brandon Chappo, Director of Public Policy, Change the Air Foundation**

### **Change the Air Foundation's Public Policy Update: Fall 2023**

Dear Friends and Fellow IAQ Advocates,

Since the launch of the Foundation in June 2022, Change the Air Foundation has been hard at work fulfilling one of our three Major Initiatives, the Policy Reform Initiative. We have some really exciting updates to share with you from the last year!

To date, Change the Air has advocated for meaningful policy reforms for mold and water-damaged indoor environments with organizations, constituents, legislators, staffers in *14* states!

At the Federal level, we visited Washington D.C. this past July and met with *thirty* Congressional offices, or *five* percent of Congress, in just three days! In doing so, we were able to put Change the Air Foundation on the map as a leading nonprofit organization in the indoor air quality space, especially regarding mold and water damaged-buildings. The trip was a huge success. Our advocacy was instrumental in the creation of the [Healthy at Home Act of 2023](#), one of the only Federal bills to combat toxic indoor mold ever to be proposed!

Specifically, the bill would:

- provide federal funding to support building owners as they seek to make the changes needed to improve a building's safety for tenants;
- create urgently needed research and standard-setting on indoor mold to protect human health;
- create minimum housing stock quality requirements for HUD-assisted housing;
- create an education campaign for tenants and landlords to reduce health and safety risks;

- require HUD to advertise and fully staff HUD's existing tenant hotline; and incentivize states to disclose health and safety concerns in a building to future residents.

At the State level, Change the Air Foundation's advocacy efforts have been directly behind the drafting of mold and indoor air quality-related legislation in 5 states with a total of *seven* bill proposals. Those states are Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania, Hawaii and Illinois. We're hopeful that our continued outreach to legislators will lead to more successful bill proposals soon. Every meeting secured is another opportunity for the Foundation to educate policy makers and our Representatives about the severity of mold, damp and water damage, as well as the importance of safe indoor air quality for all.

The Foundation has had the honor of supporting and working with passionate volunteers in several states as they reach out to their Representatives to share how their own lives were impacted by water-damaged homes and buildings. We continued to be inspired by these volunteers using their own stories to actively advocate for legislative changes and reforms. They're really making an impact, and so can you.

Change the Air Foundation is here to help you use your voice to help protect our communities. Each of us has the power to make a difference. If you're interested in becoming an advocate in your state, please be sure to contact us via the Volunteer page on our website to set a meeting with us! The link can be found here.

Remember, the Foundation's public policy view is based on the understanding that our community, and those we serve, are vital contributors in our democratic society. Your voice and experiences matter.

But we need your help to continue to build upon our community's success so far. It is only thanks to generous donations from people like you that we can continue to meet with legislators and government officials to advocate for vital policy reforms to improve indoor air quality standards across the country for us all.

Thank you for your continued support – without you, none of this would be possible.

In health and change,

Brandon Chappo  
Director of Public Policy and Co-Founder  
Change the Air Foundation

To learn more about what the Foundation advocates for and how you can get involved, please visit: <https://changetheairfoundation.org/policy-advocacy/>